



**WELCOME TO PICTOU UNITED CHURCH**  
**Rev. Mary-Beth Moriarity B.A., B.Th., M.Div.**  
**David & Shelley Pos: Ministry of Music**  
[www.pictouunited.com](http://www.pictouunited.com)

*April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018*

*Easter Sunday*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

***And across our beautiful,  
evolving world  
another Easter dawns,  
tenderly inviting us  
to ponder upon wider truths  
and alternative visions.***

***Truths of both heart and mind  
that find their roots  
in the mystery and practicality of God.***

***Basic truths  
illuminating our often uncertain journeys -  
allowing us  
to reconnect with the energies of Christ:***

***That life does come from death;  
that hate is not the final word;  
that the broken continue to sing with joy...  
that love, with its multiple faces, remains our companion.***

***So Christ is risen!  
Risen again  
in the midst of it all -  
that in some amazing way  
we too  
may be a people of hope  
who walk in the light,  
imbued with the Spirit.***

*'The Invitation of Easter' - Peter Millar in Fire and Bread,*

**We Gather in Community**

*As the music begins, we are invited to  
prepare ourselves for worship.*

**Music to Gather Us**

**Easter Litany**

**One:** Before new life springs from the ground

**ALL:** there is a seed...

*~ silence ~*

**One:** Before the sun shines on a new day  
**ALL:** **there is the setting of the moon...**  
 ~ silence ~

**One:** Before we know the joy of community  
**ALL:** **there is aloneness...**  
 ~ silence ~

**One:** Before songs are raised  
**ALL:** **there is stillness...**  
 ~ silence ~

**One:** Before Easter alleluias are shouted  
**ALL:** **there is a time to remember...**  
 ~ silence ~

*But death was not the last word.  
 God raised Jesus from death,  
 turning sorrow into joy,  
 despair into hope.  
 We sing of Jesus raised from the dead.  
 We sing hallelujah.  
 from 'A Song of Faith'*

***As the Candle Is Lit - We Sing!***

Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! **More Voices 121**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Words ~ Moment to Pause**

I wonder how will we know when joy is here.  
 The dictionary defines "joy" as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.  
 But Easter Joy is more than a feeling. Easter Joy is more than happiness.  
 Joy is a gift of grace.  
 Joy invites us to refuse to allow our lives to be ruled by fear.  
 Joy shifts death and dying, obstacles and endings  
 into creative new possibilities.  
 Joy strengthens us to 'keep on keeping on'  
 even in the midst of hurts and grief,  
 and anger and pain.  
 Easter Joy is so much more than a feeling;  
 it is the gift of the One who is Easter.  
 Like any gift, Easter Joy is ours to accept and unwrap.  
 No conditions. No exceptions.  
 So, how will we know that joy is here?

**We'll know.  
 We'll know!**

*adapted from a mediation by Janice MacLean  
 Festival & Sabbath Spring 2018*

**Hymn**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**Voices United 155**

**We are Gathered in Prayer** *in unison*

God of the morning;  
Jesus of the empty tomb;  
Spirit who rolls away stones;  
the word "alive"  
is not enough to encompass the day.

May we know life  
in every molecule of our being,  
in every word we manage to speak,  
in every gasp of breath we take.

May your resurrection,  
your breathing again,  
anchor us in hope and life.

Give us the courage to be 'Holy Fools'  
and dare our minds to dream again:  
To believe beyond what this world offers,  
into something renewed and reborn.

When there are no words to describe today  
may we have laughter  
that colours the world anew  
with a faith that embraces life.

God of this morning,  
may your promise  
spring alive once more  
in each one of us,  
and through us into your world.  
May it be so.



**And So, We Sing...** *Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.*

*Voices United 179*



**We Open Ourselves to the Good News**

*This is the day that God has made!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! And be exceedingly glad!  
This is the day that God has made!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!*

*Voices United 175*

**The Easter Story Begins...**

Matthew 28:1-2

**Reflections & Prayer**

**We Sing** In The Bulb There is a Flower *verse 1* **Voices United 703**

**...More of The Easter Story...**

Matthew 28:2-5a

**Reflections & Prayer**

**We Sing** In The Bulb There is a Flower *verse 2* **Voices United 703**

**...The Easter Story Continues and... Continues...**

Matthew 28:5-10a

**Reflections & Prayer**

**We Sing** In The Bulb There is a Flower *verse 3* **Voices United 703**



***We Celebrate the Good News of Easter  
as We Share in the Feast of our Faith***

**One:** Jesus told his followers that people would come from east and west  
and from north and south to sit at the table where love is served.  
So today we gather. This is God's table.

**ALL:** **Here we celebrate God's love! Here love is served!**

**One:** Love, made known to us through Jesus;  
made known to us through the beauty of the earth;  
made known to us in times of sorrow and times of joy;  
made known to us in those, and through those, right beside us.

**ALL:** **As we share in the bread and wine,  
we are reminded that these gifts are for all:  
for all who love God;  
for all who want to love God, one another  
and this world even more.**

**One:** Today, gather around this table and we know that God is good!

**We Sing** *Know that God is good,  
know that God is good,  
know that God is good,  
God is good, God is good.*

*Mungu ni mwema,  
Mungu ni mwema,  
Mungu ni mwema,  
ni mwema, ni mwema*

*More Voices 104*

**One:** O God, on this joyful Easter Day, we open our hearts to you.  
We have seen the power of your love roll away stones.  
We have heard his friends shout with joy as they heard his voice again.  
And so we join our voices with all God's creatures high and low,  
with all Jesus' friends from long ago, and here and now,  
to sing your praises:

**We Sing**      *Know that God is good,  
know that God is good,  
know that God is good,  
God is good, God is good.*

*More Voices 104*

**One:** Receive our joyful praise.  
For today, this Easter Day, we are reminded  
that even when life is hard,  
even when we're sad or discouraged,  
even when we forget your love,  
God of life,  
you don't turn away from us.  
You open up your arms to catch us in a hug.  
You remind us that in the midst of a world filled with hardship and pain  
and sorrow and hunger... and struggle... and... and...  
we are not alone.  
When all seems hopeless, and Good Friday overwhelms, just then,  
just then a smile warms us; just then a friend reaches out;  
Just then our tears are held; just then we are reminded of those  
who are making a difference in our community and world;  
Just then... and then...and then... Easter fills us.  
The mystery of Easter is made real.

**ALL:** **And so we gather to share in this feast.  
Through the bread and wine,  
through the company of one another  
we know love,  
we know hope,  
we are filled with joy.  
We are an Easter people!**

**We Sing**      *Mungu ni mwema,  
Mungu ni mwema,  
Mungu ni mwema,  
ni mwema, ni mwema*

*More Voices 104*



***We Share in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Joy***

*As we share in the holy gifts, we join our voices in singing:  
Joy Comes With The Dawn    **Voices United 166***

**We Affirm our Faith**    *Our New Creed*

***Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

*Voices United 958*

**We Respond and Move into the World**

**We Prepare to Offer our Gifts ~ Offertory~ Prayer**



*Reamo leboga,  
reamo leboga,  
reamo leboga,  
modimo was rona.*

*We give our thanks to God,  
we give our thanks to God,  
we give our thanks to God,  
we give our thanks to God.*

*traditional song from Botswana ~ [More Voices](#) 187*

**We Go Into the World**

*So Christ is risen!  
Risen again  
in the midst of it all –  
that in some amazing way  
we too  
may be a people of hope  
who walk in the light,  
imbued with the Spirit.*



*an excerpt from 'The Invitation of Easter' - Peter Millar in Fire and Bread,*

**One:** In life, in death, in life beyond death;  
We belong to God.  
Hallelujah!  
Holy Fools Indeed!  
**ALL: Hallelujah!**  
Holy Fools Indeed!

**Ministry of Music**      *"Hallelujah! Resurrection Morning!"*

**Music to Send Us Out into the World**



*This week's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of Al Tucker,  
by Linda and the family.*

*Bulletin Dedications... In loving memory of... In celebration of...  
Minimum donation is \$20. Please call the office for your dedication.*



**REMEMBER! FUNDScriP orders accepted today.**  
*For more info call Bev 902 485-4794 or Nancy 902 485-6738.*







*A place of welcome...  
 A place of learning...  
 A place of exploring...  
 A place of laughter...  
 A place of prayer...  
 A holy place...  
 A people of faith making a difference  
 in our community and our world.  
**WELCOME***

*Elders for communion are Pat Roach, Jim Parker,  
 Mary MacCallum, Bill Dodson & Ruth Mackay.  
 Greeting the congregation are Brad & Mary MacCallum.  
 Our Steward today is Bruce Wallis.  
 Our Ambassador today is David Steele.  
 Lay Leader is Luke Young.*



Visit [pictouunited.com](http://pictouunited.com) & [united-church.ca](http://united-church.ca)



 <b>THIS WEEK AT PUC   OFFICE 902 485-8081 TUE. 8:30 AM-12:30 AM,          MON/WED/THURS 4-6 PM &amp; SUNDAY PRIOR TO &amp; FOLLOWING WORSHIP.          BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE = WEDNESDAY @ 5 PM</b>	
<b>Tuesday, April 3</b>	7:00 pm 🎵 <b>Choir practice. All Welcome!</b> 🎵
<b>Wed. April 4</b>	8:30 am <b>PU Healthy Lifers</b> 11:30 am <b>Grab &amp; Go Lunch Program</b> 1:00 pm <b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>
<b>Friday, April 6</b>	9:30 am <b>Friday FunDay</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	10:30 am <b>Worship ~ Living Faith</b> <i>Coffee Hour Following Worship</i> <i>Hosted by Pastoral Care &amp; Outreach Committee</i> <b>Finance and Stewardship Meeting</b>
 PUC is a <b>NUT &amp; SCENT AWARE ZONE</b> . Please remember when providing food for events. Please be aware of scent sensitivities of others. Thank you. 	
<b>HEARING LOOP</b> Switch to 'T-COIL'  The <b>PICTOU ADVOCATE</b> has "PUC Sunday Reports"	

**Next Sunday- Living Faith**

From time to time we pause in worship to hear the stories of those people and organizations within our community who are making a difference as they live out their faith.

Next Sunday, we welcome Christine MacKenzie. Christine, a member of Lyon's Brook United Church, will share with us her living faith as it finds expression in her community activism, her advocacy regarding mental health, and her participation in the upcoming, June 16<sup>th</sup>, Pictou County "Walk the Walk for Autism".



**MIDWINTER TAKE OUT LUNCH FOR 2 - *Corn Chowder or Baked Beans***  
**ORDER TODAY FROM THE HUTCH, ONLY \$10! PICK UP AT COFFEE HOUR APRIL 8.**



**DO YOU HAVE A SPARE HOUR ONE WEDNESDAY A MONTH?  
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUT WITH GRAB & GO  
OUR WEEKLY LUNCH PROGRAM FOR PICTOU ACADEMY**

**JOBS INCLUDE: HELPING MAKE THE WRAPS, STUFFING THE LUNCH BAGS OR DELIVERING. WE HAPPILY WELCOME GUYS OR GALS. WORK STARTS IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN AT 10:45 EACH WEDNESDAY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WISH TO VOLUNTEER OR JUST WANT MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT MARY MACCALLUM AT 902 396-6294.**

As many of you are aware our *Grab & Go Program* is well used by PA Students - 85 lunches prepared & eaten each Wednesday. Recently we have been thinking about the rest of the week and the weekends.

What about the food needs then?

In conversation with PA's principal and staff, we have learned there is a food security need for some PA Students. Hunger is real - and a reality.

So *Grab & Go* is establishing a "*Grab & Go PANTRY*" at PA.

A place where, without stigma, students can access food items. To help us stock this PANTRY we are inviting you to bring donations to worship **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**Items needed: Cans of Soup; Canned tuna or meat, KD instant cups; Granola Bars; Instant Oatmeal; Protein Bars; Fruit Cups.**



**A Note from Mary-Beth.** *Over the past 8 weeks I have been engaged in an on-line course, 'The End of Life Doula Professional Certificate' (University of Vermont's College of Medicine.) It has been a time of deep learning, personal exploration and reflection on End of Life issues and my end of life. As well, a time of exploring the growing professional field of End of Life Doula (Death Midwife).*

*The course has been rich in required resources and assignments and offers many additional readings and resources, and so it is my plan that follow-up study and reflection in the area of end of life care & planning and death midwifery will be a component of my upcoming sabbatical (Summer 2018). If you would like to hear more about this course or my Sabbatical plans, I would love to chat.*



**NEXT SUNDAY: Join us for COFFEE HOUR**  
Remember donations for the GRAB & GO Pantry.



**FINANCIAL UPDATE: Last week's attendance: 70.**  
Offering was \$1,989.92 (includes PAR & fundraisers).  
Budget for the week was \$2,781.73.



**TOWN OF PICTOU VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION**  
**Tuesday, April 17, 7 pm, deCoste Entertainment Centre.**  
If your committee plans to attend please notify the office by April 3.